



South Lake Champlain Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

November 21, 2023, 2:30 pm

Online and in-person at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission offices.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order 2:35 PM

Council Members present: Erin Rodgers, chair (TU); Shayne Jaquith (TNC); Adam Piper (VLT); Mike Winslow (ACRPC); Katy Crumley (PMNRCD), and Dan Redondo (Town of Orwell)

Staff present: Hilary Solomon (PMNRCD/CWSP) and Barbara Noyes Pulling (RRPC/CWSP)

VTDEC present: Angie Allen, Basin Planner

Partners/public present: Sadie Brown (PMNRCD)

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Erin Rodgers at 2:35 pm. Attendees introduced themselves to the new BWQC member, Dan Redondo.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Winslow and seconded by Adam Piper. The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from September 21, 2023, was made by Mike Winslow and seconded by Adam Piper. Shayne Jaquith requested that the spelling of his last name be corrected in the minutes. The motion was amended to include those corrections. The minutes were approved; Katy Crumley and Dan Redondo abstained since they were not in attendance at that meeting.

REVIEW of RFP ROUND PROJECTS

Kirby Hollow Watershed Assessment, Dorset

This project is a scoping, conceptual design for Floodplain/Stream Restoration to look at the applicability of all relevant project types in the Kirby Hollow tributary subwatershed. Mike Winslow expressed

concerns about the lack of Phosphorus (P) reduction for culvert projects. Erin Rodgers commented that reduction values vary from site to site. Katy Crumley mentioned that she has walked the stream and noticed that cattle have free access to the stream. Hilary Solomon mentioned the potential for floodplain and habitat restoration in the subwatershed and that there will be a chance to explore P reduction through the assessment work.

Shayne Jaquith offered that there may be an opportunity for strategic woody addition and asked how much of this is farmland. Katy Crumley estimated the lower third is ag land and there are two locations where livestock are in the stream. Shayne Jaquith asked about getting approval from the Agency of Agriculture; Hilary Solomon indicated it wouldn't be needed for scoping and that she thought the agency would be open to meeting about specific projects.

Regarding P reduction, Angie Allen indicated the Functioning Floodplain Initiative 2.0 tool provides average expected P reduction of two lbs./culvert/year.

Mike Winslow asked whether the CWSP staff is still comfortable with the proposal based on this discussion and Hilary Solomona and Barbara Noyes Pulling both replied yes. He moved to approve the project; Katy Crumley seconded the motion.

In the discussion following the making of the motion, Katy Crumley mentioned that three culverts were on steep slopes, would likely yield more than two lbs./yr, and that there were tree planting opportunities.

Shayne Jaquith wondered if assessments like this one would identify projects that may be implemented and funded by others, whether this was a disincentive to the CWSP. Hilary Solomon indicated that there are ways to partner on these identified projects. Erin Rodgers offered that a condition of the assessment that the BWQC be notified of all of the projects, how many are CWSP eligible, and how much P reduction is estimated. Shayne Jaquith indicated that this was a larger policy issue. Angie Allen acknowledged that there was an inherent risk to CWSPs, but that the longer view is the need to develop a project pipeline.

The motion passed unanimously; Erin Rodgers abstained because she is the applicant.

Stage Road Stormwater Treatment Concept Design, Benson

This project is a Preliminary (30%) Design for a stormwater outfall in need of remediation that Hilary Solomon indicated was identified in a DEC Stormwater Mapping project and in the Poultney Stormwater Master Plan and is ready for the next step of conceptual design.

Shayne Jaquith asked if this project fell under a stormwater permit; Hilary Solomon indicated it wasn't. Shayne Jaquith asked if CWSPs are allowed to apply for projects. Hilary Solomon replied CWSPs can manage projects. She also pointed out that \$5,000 of the \$6,000 budget would go to a consultant with just \$1,000 for CWSP management.

Mike Winslow moved to approve the project; Dan Redondo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote there was a short discussion about project pipelines and the need for more project proposals for all CWSPs, how often there should be RFP rounds for project applications, and if there

should be a way for private entities, like consultants, to propose projects. Mike Winslow offered that municipalities could play the role of middleman to develop projects and Hilary Solomon indicated that CWSPs could play a similar role as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be in late February 2024. A poll will be sent out to schedule the date and time.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 pm

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Noyes Pulling & Hilary Solomon